



**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

January 2002

Call us at (403) 275-4400

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Producers Set Course for 2002

Cattle producer delegates from across the province debated 73 policy resolutions at the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) 27th annual general meeting (AGM) in Calgary this past December. Greg Conn of Innisfail (left photo) was reaffirmed as the ACC chairman. Arno Doerksen of Gem is the vice-chairman and Michael Bird of Blackie was chosen as finance chairman.

Some of the key policy decisions were:

- The ACC will lobby for the immediate implementation of a terminal feedlot pilot project to test year-round access to U.S. feeder cattle.
- The ACC will work with other cattle industry organizations to lobby government to develop a formula for calculating transfer fees on grazing leases that is based on the cost of providing the service.
- The ACC will promote amendments to Bill 31 that better meet the needs of leaseholders.
- Due to the drought, the ACC will lobby government to defer income tax on grass cattle as was done for breeding cattle.
- The ACC will lobby government to extend the deadline for the Alberta Farm Water Program to March 31, 2003 so program allocations can be fully utilized.
- The ACC will recommend that Canadian Cattle Identification Agency information be made available to Livestock Identification Services and the police for identification purposes only with the herd of origin owner's approval.
- The ACC will lobby for changes to the

composition of the Livestock Identification Services board to better reflect cattle producers' interests and financial contributions.

- The ACC will continue to work with government to provide better access to effective Richardson Ground Squirrel control measures.
- The ACC will recommend the CCA conduct a cow/calf on-farm food safety pilot project in Alberta.

Other highlights of the AGM included former ACC manager Chris Mills (right photo) being recognized for over 30 years of service to the Canadian cattle industry. Of special significance was his work on U.S. and European beef trade issues and domestic agriculture policy.

Alberta Beef Producers

Delegates agreed to officially change the ACC's name to **Alberta Beef Producers** to more accurately reflect its membership and the product they produce. The new name will help producers and the general public more readily identify and better understand the role of the organization as an advocate of the Alberta beef industry. The name change must be approved by Marketing Council and will be phased in during late 2002.

**Alberta
Beef**

*Congratulations
Amanda Cole
of New Norway,
Sandra Szybunka
of Cherhill, **Andrea
Vavrek** of Sexsmith
and **Teresa Welsch**
of Pincher Creek.
Each received a \$500
4-H scholarship from
the ACC towards
their post secondary
education. Well
done and good luck
to all our winners!*



Environment

Innisfail Feedlot Wins Environment Award

Common sense environmental practices and strong community leadership have earned a central Alberta feedlot the Alberta Cattle Commission's (ACC) highest award for stewardship. Don and Carol Curtice, owners of Little Red Feeders Ltd., are recipients of the 2002 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

Little Red Feeders Ltd. is a 4,000-head capacity feedlot operating beside the Little Red Deer River southwest of Innisfail. The third-generation cattle operation began as a mixed farm before gradually evolving into a full fledged feedlot and bull test station.

As an older feedlot, it was not designed to today's strict engineering standards. With a strong desire to protect the river, Don had to design remedial solutions to the potential of feedlot runoff entering the watershed.

"Our first goal was to ensure that any water leaving our land was not contaminated by our feedlot or farming operation," says Don. "So we developed a water treatment system based on natural ecosystems to remove nutrients. We constructed a settling pond to trap runoff which then successively filters through a

constructed wetland, perennial forage floodable meadow, grass filter strips and a floodable forest filter strip."

Don felt the system was working but wanted research data to back up his assertions. That led to a partnership with the University of Calgary, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, and the development of the Ecotechnology Demonstration Study.

The study is measuring the effectiveness of the system in purifying runoff and will develop a model that other feedlots can use to develop their own constructed wetlands.

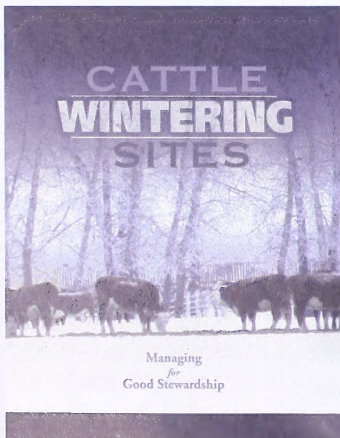
Don's impetus in starting the Ecotechnology Demonstration Study also led to the formation of the Friends of the Little Red Deer River Society of which Don is president. The society's members consist of farmers and local residents, and its mission is to enhance the water quality of the Little Red Deer River watershed through education and extension to all stakeholders and river users. The society has conducted water quality testing to establish benchmarks, fish counts, assessments

of the riparian health of the river and numerous information meetings.

These initiatives have led to numerous opportunities for Don to be an ambassador for the cattle industry and the community. Over 300 people toured the feedlot last year to see the Ecotechnology Demonstration Study ranging from high school students to agricultural engineers.

The ACC is proud to present the Year 2002 Environmental Stewardship Award to Don and Carol Curtice. Representatives from conservation and agriculture formed the judging committee. The judges examined the stewardship goals and activities of the nominees including accomplishments in land management, water quality, wildlife, animal welfare and leadership activities in the community.

The ACC is now accepting nominations for the 2003 ESA. All cattle producers are encouraged to either enter or nominate another producer who qualifies. Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2002. The winner will be announced at the ACC annual general meeting, December 2002. Nomination forms are available from the ACC office at (403) 275-4400.



Managing Cattle Wintering Sites

Cattle Wintering Sites - Managing for Good Stewardship gives producers information about identifying and managing potential problems with wintering sites. The focus is on common sense and practical solutions that are effective and economical for producers. Factors such as precipitation, slope, drainage, ground cover, water supply, feeding and bedding strategies are reviewed.

The publication acknowledges that every wintering site is unique and that beneficial management practices will differ from site to site. The intent is to help producers find the strategies that work in their individual situations.

Cattle Wintering Sites was developed in partnership with the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC), Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and is available free of charge to all Alberta cattle producers. Call the ACC at (403) 275-4400 for a free copy.



Industry News

Canada Makes Changes in Beef Grading

In a move to more closely harmonize beef grades in North America, revisions to Canadian grading regulations have brought two grades closer to those of the United States. The United States is Canada's largest beef export market. It's hoped these changes will provide increased opportunities for Canada beef.

Cindy Delaloye, Canadian Beef Grading Agency general manager, explains the changes. "Initially, we used to ask for four millimetres of back fat in order to qualify for one of our A or higher grades. We're dropping that down to two millimetres. In the United States there is no requirement for minimum back fat. Our research showed that in order to maintain

quality we still needed some." This change may reduce the cost of feeding to meet the old Canada A or higher minimum fat requirements.

"Also, we've reduced the minimum muscling requirement on our Canada A or higher grades. There is no muscling requirement in the United States for a carcass to be a choice or higher grade," add Delaloye. This change expands the potential to feed dairy type cattle and not receive grade discounts if they meet the new minimum requirements for Canada A or higher muscling.

AAA beef in Canada is already equivalent to USDA Choice. Because of this, Delaloye points out Canada AAA is accepted as Canada Choice when the beef is shipped to the United States.

Canada Beef Export Federation Elects New Chair

The Canada Beef Export Federation has elected a new chairman. Ben Thorlakson, a cattle feeder from Airdrie, Alberta believes Asia and Mexico are where the greatest potential growth exists for increased Canadian beef sales during the next decade. He feels the focus must be on a progressive marketing plan in those markets.

"Over the last two to three years we have increased sales into Mexico many times over. Japan, South Korea and Taiwan are premium markets for our beef where we get full value for the product. We trade our beef on an equivalent basis with American beef," points out Thorlakson.

"Our domestic market is a great market but it only takes 50 per cent of production so if we're going to get

decent returns for our beef, we have to aggressively merchandise our product overseas."

He feels there is a challenge to maintaining sales in the Pacific Rim countries due to the economic downturn but in the medium and long term, believes these countries represent the greatest potential. China is viewed as representing excellent opportunities as a result of its entry into the World Trade Organization.

Thorlakson acknowledges the possible introduction of country of origin labelling in the United States places pressure on Canada to find new markets elsewhere. He concludes, "I think it would be a healthier situation if we could reduce our dependence on the U.S. market."

New Research to Combat E. coli 0157:H7

The Canadian beef cattle industry is funding new research as part of its strategy to combat E. coli 0157:H7. Dr. Tim McAllister of the Lethbridge Research Centre, is a leading expert on the issue. He says that to date there is no one method to control the pathogen in feedlots but adds, researchers are now taking a multi-disciplinary approach.

One of the new methods being considered to combat E. coli 0157:H7 is the use of canola oil in feeder cattle diets. Canola oil may be effective in controlling the development of E. coli 0157:H7 in the rumen. "Most research to date has focused on grain and forage in the diet but, we're taking a different approach. Canola oil is something that could easily be incorporated into the diets of animals if the product proves to be a control measure," says McAllister.

Another new method being researched is the introduction of bacteriophages. These are natural infectious viruses that specifically target E. coli 0157:H7.

Fecal shedding of E. coli 0157:H7 in cattle herds is intermittent in nature. The season of the year and the age of the animal have a significant effect on the level and duration of fecal shedding of E. coli by cattle. In addition, a number of studies suggest that diet also plays a key role.

McAllister feels that the new "multi-disciplinary approach" could result in proven methods to effectively combat E. coli. The research is part of an overall campaign targeting E. coli 0157:H7 that includes awareness and preventative measures at every step from farm to consumers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were generated at 39 country meetings held throughout the province during late October and early November.

A resolutions committee comprised of Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) delegates organized the resolutions for the ACC's annual meeting held at the beginning of December. Each resolution was presented at the annual meeting, where it was debated and voted on by ACC

delegates.

The carried resolutions are printed below. Limited space prevents us from printing the defeated and redundant resolutions. The full list of resolutions is available from the ACC office.

If you want further information about any one of the following resolutions, please contact your local ACC delegate (see list on pages 6-9).

Canadian Cattlemen's Association

1. Be it resolved the ACC lobby to have the Restricted Cattle Feeder Import Program adhere to the regulation pertaining to the confinement of feeder cattle to feedlots only.
2. Be it resolved the ACC and CCA pressure the federal government and its agencies to immediately implement the terminal feedlot pilot project enabling year-round access to U.S. feeder cattle.
3. Be it resolved the CCA take a leadership role to meet with all stakeholders once a year and that the CCA be the sole voice for negotiating with the federal government and its agencies.
4. Be it resolved any on-farm food safety certification program have voluntary participation by producers as part of its implementation.
5. Be it resolved the ACC continue to press for extensive monitoring for Foot-and-Mouth disease.
6. Be it resolved the ACC take a proactive role in the formation of federal regulations regarding genetically modified products.
7. Be it resolved the ACC continue to put pressure on all levels of government to have industry input into all aspects of the Species at Risk Act.
8. Be it resolved the ACC strongly recommend to the CCA that a cow/calf on-farm food safety pilot project be carried out in Alberta as well as Ontario.

Executive

1. Be it resolved the ACC's name be changed to Alberta Beef Producers.
2. Be it resolved the CCA immediately hire a credible independent risk assessor to review the Canadian Food Inspection Agency terminal feedlot protocol risk assessment.
3. Be it resolved the boundaries of ACC zone seven be changed to include those producers who lie within the Northeast Edmonton city limits (all producers north of 137th Avenue and west of the North Saskatchewan River).

Finance and Budget

1. Be it resolved the 2002/2003 budget be approved as presented.

Government Affairs

1. Be it resolved the ACC continue to promote amendments to Bill 31 which reflect the recommendations from the Bill 31 Stakeholder Steering Committee Report.
2. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Minister of Agriculture to extend the deadline for the Alberta Farm Water Program to March 31, 2003 so that the allocated dollars may be fully utilized.
3. Be it resolved the ACC set up a committee with the Farmers' Advocate to lobby the government to change the Water Act to ensure oil company activities do not impact ground water quality and quantity.
4. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the federal government and Canadian Food Inspection Agency to address and eliminate the infected bison herd at Wood Buffalo Park to maintain the internationally

respected health status of the Canadian cattle herd.

5. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the government to ensure riparian area rights are consistent throughout Alberta for the purpose of controlling access to the water's edge.
6. Be it resolved the ACC work in conjunction with the Western Stock Growers' Association and the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders' Association to develop a proposal to government that reflects an equal and uniform formula for calculating transfer fees based on the cost of providing the service.
7. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the government to increase the fine and make it easier to charge people who trespass on deeded and leased land.
8. Be it resolved that due to the drought situation and the lack of forage, the ACC petition the two levels of government to defer the income tax on grass cattle similar to the program for breeding cattle.
9. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the provincial government to declare Orange Hawkweed as a noxious weed within the province of Alberta with further research to be done into control measures and impact on pastures and rangeland.
10. Be it resolved the ACC increase its effort to maintain government support for the Beef Industry Development Fund.
11. Be it resolved the Alberta government sell all Crown grazing leases in the white area over a 10-year period with the current leaseholder having first right of refusal.

AGM RESOLUTIONS

Industry Association

1. Be it resolved Canadian Cattle Identification Agency information be made available to Livestock Identification Services and police for identification purposes with the herd of origin owner's approval.
2. Be it resolved the ACC work with government to change the composition of the Livestock Identification Services board to better reflect producers' interests.
3. Be it resolved the ACC request the government change the makeup of the Livestock Identification Services board to better reflect the fact that the majority of its revenue is received from cattle producers.
4. Be it resolved the ACC strive to implement the recommendations of the Livestock Identification Services cost benefit study that the ACC finds acceptable.
5. Be it resolved the ACC urge Livestock Identification Services to integrate the auction and feedlot sector into the existing Livestock Identification Services computer system.
6. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the government to update the legislation and regulations currently administered by the Livestock Identification Services to better reflect conditions as they exist in the Alberta cattle industry.
7. Be it resolved the ACC request that Livestock Identification Services clearly show what additional costs would have to apply to other inspections if the registered feedlot program is instituted.

Producer Liaison

1. Be it resolved the ACC 4-H scholarships be increased to one per zone at \$500 per scholarship instead of four per province.
2. Be it resolved the ACC investigate a system where all producers that pay check-off be on the ACC mailing list.

3. Be it resolved the ACC investigate including a summary and highlights of the financial statements in the 'Year in Review' a/v presentation.

Public Affairs

1. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the pesticide industry to consider alternatives to mass media television and radio commercials.
2. Be it resolved the ACC support the enforcement of animal welfare legislation pertaining to the livestock industry.
3. Be it resolved the ACC continue to work at all levels (local and provincial) and wherever possible with other resource groups on water and drought issues.
4. Be it resolved the ACC contact all manufacturers of animal health products and encourage them to establish a protocol or program for the recycling of plastic and glass vaccine, antibiotic and insecticide containers.

Technical

1. Be it resolved the ACC ask for an annual report from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine Chair in Beef Cattle Health and Production Management in order to monitor the progress made in the pursuit of gaining graduates into large animal practices.
2. Be it resolved the ACC investigate whether Chronic Wasting Disease is transferable to the domestic cattle herd from wild animals.
3. Be it resolved the ACC consider research into the country of origin and safety concerns of vaccines approved for use in Canada.
4. Be it resolved the ACC support the continued availability of two per cent strychnine for the 2002 season.
5. Be it resolved the ACC lobby the federal government to get effective Richardson Ground Squirrel control.

ACC Directors and National Representatives

The following is a list of the ACC zone directors and directors at large that together form the ACC board. The ACC also elects directors to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) responsible for national lobbying, and members to the Beef Information Centre (B.I.C.) committee responsible for national promotion.

ACC Board of Directors:

Zone Directors:

Joan Hughson	zone one
ACC representative to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency	
Len Vogelaar	zone two
Government Affairs Chairman	
Bruce Bamford	zone three
Beef Promotion Chairman	
Marj Veno	zone four
Producer Liaison Chairman	
Shawn Morton	zone five
ACC representative to Alberta Agricultural Forum	
Curtis Henkelmann	zone six
Public Affairs Chairman	
Murray Kerik	zone seven
Miles Belsheim	zone eight
Technical Chairman	
Cec Jardine	zone nine
ACC representative to Livestock Identification Services	

Directors at Large:

Michael Bird	zone three
ACC Finance Chairman	
Greg Conn	zone five
ACC Chairman	
Arno Doerksen	zone one
ACC Vice-Chairman	
Dave Solverson	zone six
ACC representative to the Canada Beef Export Federation	
Glen Thompson	ACFA
Cattle Feeder Council Chairman	

CCA Directors:

Kevin Boon	zone five
Bob Christie	zone two
Greg Conn	zone five
Don Curtice	zone five
Arno Doerksen	zone one
Hugh Lynch-Staunton	zone two
Bill Stewart	zone eight

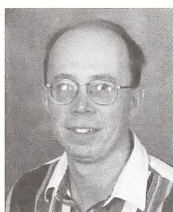
B.I.C. Committee Members:

Millie Boake	zone five
Brian Chomlak	zone eight
Marvin Conrad	zone one
Roy Eckert	zone six
Perry Sundquist	zone six
Barry Haner	zone five

ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

Zone 1:

**Counties 2, 4, 8;
M.D.s 1, 14;
that area of Special
Area No. 2 that lies
south of the Red
Deer River**



Lou Bertschy
Milo,
(403) 599-3800



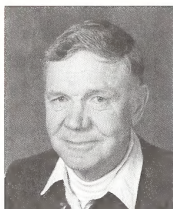
Arno Doerksen
Gem,
(403) 641-2498
ACC vice-chairman



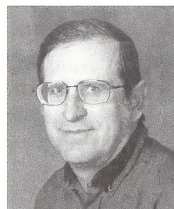
Brad Calvert
Brooks,
(403) 362-3587



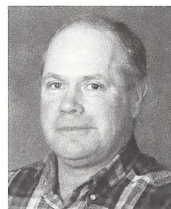
Joan Hughson
Foremost,
(403) 867-2343
zone director



Tom Livingston
Duchess,
(403) 378-4701



Dennis Stretch
Vulcan, (403) 485-6803



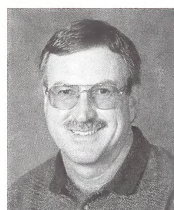
Merle Wyatt
Arrowwood,
(403) 534-2277

Zone 2:

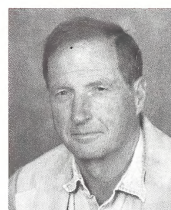
**Counties 5, 26;
M.D.s 6, 9, 26,
66;
I.D.s 4, 5, 6;
Municipality of
Crowsnest Pass**



Marvin Conrad
Stirling,
(403) 733-3603



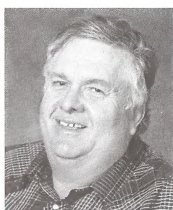
Jack de Boer
Monarch,
(403) 824-3407



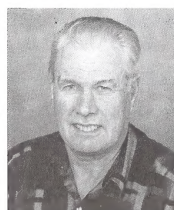
Hugh Lynch-Staunton
Lundbreck,
(403) 628-2420



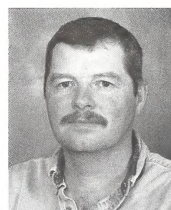
Judy Nelson
Lundbreck,
(403) 628-2381



Grant Nelson
Stirling,
(403) 756-3589



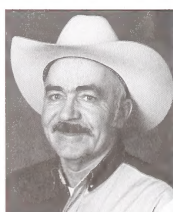
Len Vogelaar
Pincher Creek, (403) 627-2078
government affairs
committee chairman



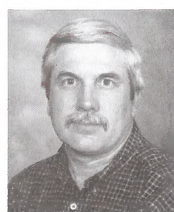
Les Wall
Coaldale,
(403) 328-6565

Zone 3:

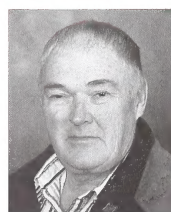
**Counties 16, 17;
M.D.s 8, 31, 44;
I.D. 9**



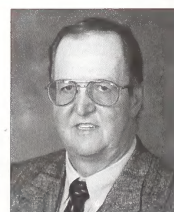
Bruce Bamford
Calgary,
(403) 256-5674
beef promotion
committee chairman



Michael Bird
Blackie,
(403) 684-3446
ACC finance chairman

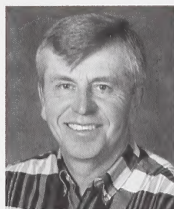


Charles Groeneveld
High River,
(403) 938-7843

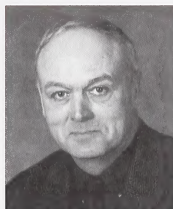


Ernie Israelson
Didsbury,
(403) 335-4279

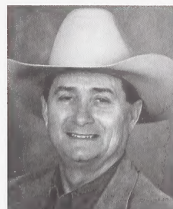
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES



Alvin Kumlin
Calgary,
(403) 932-5862



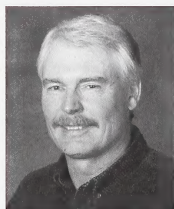
Scott McKay
Kathryn,
(403) 935-4512



David Pope
High River,
(403) 652-6827

Zone 4:

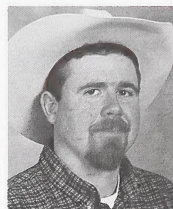
**Counties 18, 29;
M.D.s 34, 52, 61;
that area of Special
Area No. 2 that lies
north of the Red Deer
River, Special Area
No. 3, Special Area
No. 4**



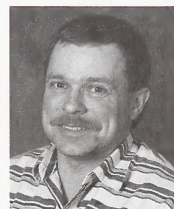
Paul Christianson
Sedalia,
(403) 326-2114



Craig Horner
Hanna,
(403) 566-2494



Gene Rawe
Strome,
(780) 376-2360



Ken Rawluk
Lougheed,
(780) 386-2357



Glen Rosenau
Cereal,
(403) 326-2010



Marj Veno
Hanna, (403) 854-2487
producer/liaison
committee chairman



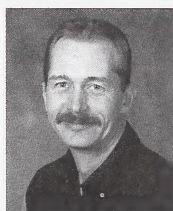
Carol Wilson
Killam,
(780) 385-2202

Zone 5:

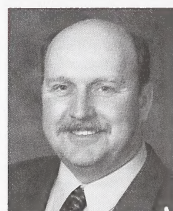
**Counties 6, 14,
23;
M.D.s 7, 47, 48,
99**



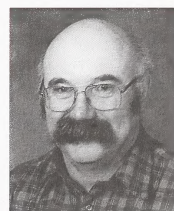
Millie Boake
Rocky Mountain House,
(403) 845-5468



Kevin Boon
Della,
(403) 364-2253



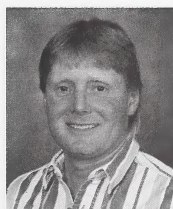
Greg Conn
Innisfail,
(403) 227-6656
ACC chairman



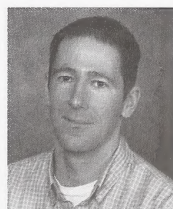
Don Curtice
Innisfail,
(403) 227-2511



Barry Haner
Red Willow,
(403) 742-4384



Clinton Kautz
Rocky Mountain House,
(403) 729-2027

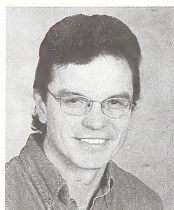


Shawn Morton
Lacombe,
(403) 341-4378
zone director

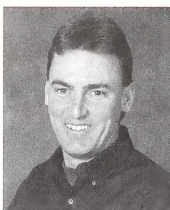
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

Zone 6:

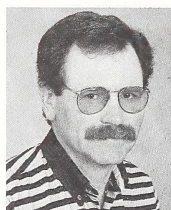
Counties 3, 9,
10, 20, 22, 25,
31;
I.D. 13;
M.D. 77,
City of Edmonton



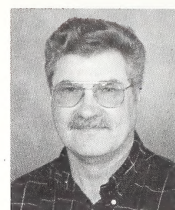
Roy Eckert
New Sarepta,
(780) 941-2487



Curtis Henkelmann
Leduc, (780) 986-0836
public affairs
committee chairman



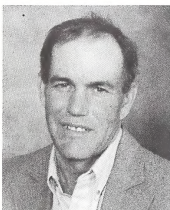
Allan Minchau
Millet,
(780) 387-5349



Marvin Molzan
Leduc,
(780) 986-2417



Rodney Schlaut
Daysland,
(780) 374-2159



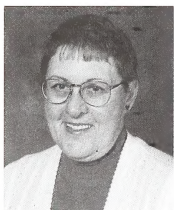
Dave Solverson
Camrose,
(780) 672-7141
director at large



Perry Sundquist
Westerose,
(780) 586-2261

Zone 7:

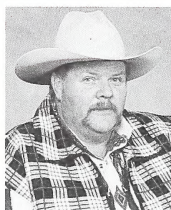
Counties 7, 11,
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M.D.s 15, 17, 90,
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I.D. No. 12



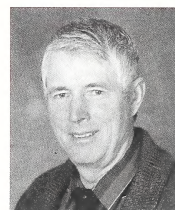
June Conrad
Hondo,
(780) 829-3854



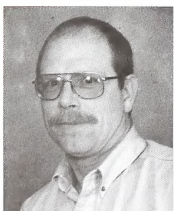
Lee Davis
Niton Junction,
(780) 795-2203



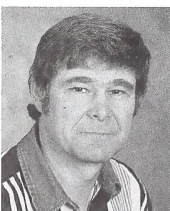
Joe Dobyanski
Westlock,
(780) 954-2165



Dale Greig
Barrhead,
(780) 674-4246



Murray Kerik
Flatbush,
(780) 681-2244
zone director



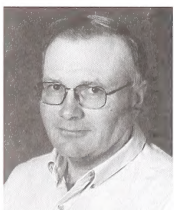
Dale Schaffrick
Barrhead,
(780) 785-2779



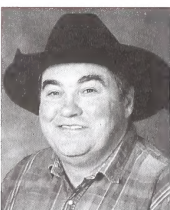
Charles Westra
Gibbons,
(780) 998-9083

Zone 8:

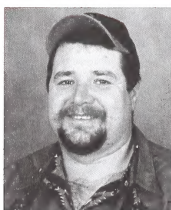
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Lakeland;
M.D. 87,
Municipality of
Wood Buffalo,
I.D. 24



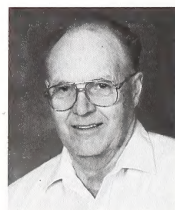
Miles Belsheim
Marwayne,
(780) 847-2236
technical committee
chairman



Larry Cherniwchan
Bellis,
(780) 636-2208

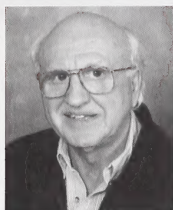


Brian Chomlak
Beauvallon,
(780) 366-2180

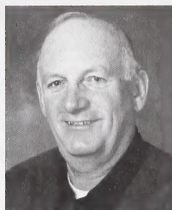


Bill Fox
Elk Point,
(780) 724-3952

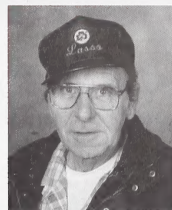
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES



Guy Fontaine
Bonnyville,
(780) 428-0707



Bill Stewart
Hairy Hill,
(780) 768-2323



Howard Thomas
Lac La Biche,
(780) 623-4542

Zone 9:

**County 1;
M.D.s 16, 19, 20,
21, 22, 23, 125,
130, 131, 133,
135, 136**



Maarten Braat
Fort Vermilion,
(780) 927-3800



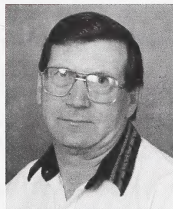
Dennis Gellings
Bear Canyon,
(780) 595-2143



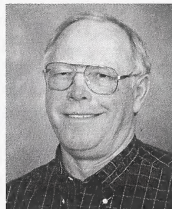
Shelley Morrison
DeBolt,
(780) 957-2932



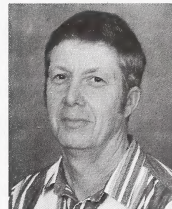
Lorrie Schoepp
Beaverlodge,
(780) 354-8876



Bruce Jack
Spirit River,
(780) 864-2297



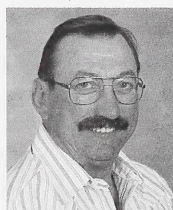
Cec Jardine
Valleyview,
(780) 524-3507
zone director



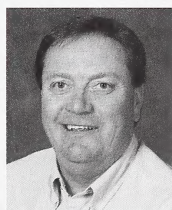
Robert MacAlister
Wembley,
(780) 766-2741

Producer Association Delegates:

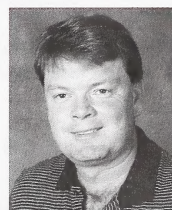
**Alberta Canada
All Breeds
Association**



Lyle Taylor
Alberta Canada All Breeds
Barrhead,
(780) 785-3422



Glen Thompson
Alberta Cattle Feeders'
Iron Springs, (403) 738-4351
cattle feeder council chairman

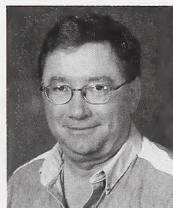


Jeff Warrack
Alberta Cattle Feeders'
Strathmore,
(403) 934-4186



Lorrie Jespersen
Alberta Milk Producers'
Barrhead,
(780) 785-2121

**Alberta Milk
Producers'
Association**



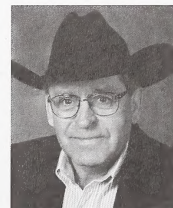
Rodney Murray
Feeder Associations
Picture Butte,
(403) 732-4643



Ted Quist
Feeder Associations
Marwayne,
(780) 875-7333



Karen Gordon
Western Stock Growers'
Hanna,
(403) 854-2594



David Wildman
Western Stock Growers'
Sangudo,
(780) 785-2091

Livestock Biosecurity

A 'Foreign Animal Disease' (FAD) in your herd can have a devastating effect on the health and welfare of your livestock, and the economic viability of your business.

The same is true for every herd in Canada. We have only to look at the recent experience in the UK to see that an outbreak in Canada would permanently alter your business and Canada's livestock industry, and cost billions.

You can reduce the chance of an outbreak – or the impact, if it occurs – by having your own biosecurity program.

WHAT IS IT?

A management program to prevent the spread of disease.

WHY DO IT?

To reduce – in your herd and the national herd:

- The chance of introducing disease;
- The spread of disease, and;
- The cost of disease.

HOW TO DO IT?

As a part of the management program for your operation. Consider your inputs, the products you produce, the assets you manage (i.e. the livestock, feed, equipment and buildings), and the costs and the risks you are prepared to bear.

WHERE TO GET HELP?

From your veterinarian, commodity group, provincial veterinary service, the CFIA and the Canadian Animal Health Coalition.

WHEN TO DO IT?

Now. Implement a control program for your operation right away ... and keep it current.

WHO HAS TO DO IT?

You. You are responsible for animal health on your operation – that is a critical control point in preventing or controlling the spread of disease to the national herd. Your program will assist those responding to a major outbreak.

Do your part ...

Prevent foreign animal diseases from entering Canada ...

Implement a biosecurity program.

Contact Canadian Animal Health Coalition

'... promoting a collaborative approach to animal health'

www.animalhealth.ca

This bulletin supported by the Western CARD Council

Your Livestock Biosecurity Checklist

VISITORS

- ☐ **Control traffic on and off the farm**
- ☐ **Post prominent signage** to restrict access and provide directions to the farm office, using words appropriate to your location and operation
- ☐ **Discourage unnecessary visitors**
 - All visitors must be accompanied, and prohibited or limited from accessing structures or pens containing animals, medications or feed
- ☐ **Keep a 'visitor log'**
 - all visitors, service calls and deliveries – no exceptions
 - date, name, business, contact information, next farm visit, previous farm visit (see www.animalhealth.ca)
- ☐ **Ask visitors to arrive in clean clothes**, footwear and vehicles
 - on arrival, instruct visitors as to your sanitation practices
 - provide clean clothes and footwear if this condition is not met
- ☐ **Discuss visitors from other countries** with your veterinarian or the CFIA, to assess the risk and appropriate measures

LIVESTOCK

- ☐ **Purchase healthy livestock** from reputable suppliers following good management practices and a recognized on-farm food safety program
- ☐ **Isolate purchased livestock** for a minimum of 2 weeks
- ☐ **Purchase quality feed** from feed mills that follow good manufacturing practices
- ☐ **Separate sick from healthy animals**
- ☐ **Deadstock** should be
 - removed immediately from other animals
 - removed promptly from the farm by deadstock truckers
 - held away from animals, feed and buildings while on-farm, in such a manner that the deadstock trucker does not have to enter livestock buildings
 - necropsied to confirm cause of death

SANITATION

- ☐ **Keep clean ...** all personnel, buildings, yards, equipment, instruments, feed storage areas and feed equipment
- ☐ **Disinfection**
 - choose the right product for the job
 - clean items with warm water and detergent, before disinfection
- ☐ **Use disposable equipment** once, and discard

WILDLIFE & PESTS

- ☐ **Control or eliminate vermin**
- ☐ **Protect your feed and water supplies** from fecal contamination by wildlife



National Industry News

National Check-Off Agency Approved

The Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency has received final approval from the federal government.

The creation of the Agency will for the first time allow the collection of a national check-off on beef cattle marketed within Canada. It will also enable for the first time the collection of a check-off on beef and cattle imported into Canada. This has the potential to increase funding for research, market development and promotion by over \$1 million annually.

"Beef cattle industry leaders have been working for several years to get this Agency approved. We're very pleased that work has met with success," says Greg Conn, chairman of the Alberta Cattle Commission and director to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

"The purpose of the Agency is to provide a secure source of funding for research, market development and promotion, which benefits all cattle producers equally. The beef cattle industry will be the first commodity to establish a national check-off."

Now that approval of the Agency has been finalized, next steps include establishing a board of directors representing all 10 provinces plus beef importers, and reaching final

agreements with each province for collection of the check-off. The board is expected to be set within the next few weeks, with establishment of an agency business plan to follow.

Alberta cattle producers will not notice a difference when the national check-off program starts. Producers currently pay a provincial check-off of \$2 per head marketed, with one dollar

of that check-off directed by the Alberta Cattle Commission to national promotion, market development and research programs. Once the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency is fully operational, that portion of the check-off will be sent to the Agency for distribution among promotion, market development and research activities.

Feedlot On-Farm Food Safety Pilot Project Begins in New Year

A voluntary on-farm food safety program for the beef industry will launch feedlot and cow/calf pilot projects in the New Year. The livestock, horticulture and crop production sectors are all developing food safety initiatives for the farm. The program under development for the beef industry is an initiative of Quality Starts Here, which has been teaching producers about quality and safety issues since 1994.

When it's launched, the on-farm food safety program will give beef producers who choose to participate an additional marketing tool.

Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Assistant Manager Rob McNabb says, "We're getting close to the final stages of developing the verification

procedure. When producers sign on to the program, it will provide the means to verify they're following the type of procedures in keeping with minimizing and reducing the risk of food safety on the farm."

McNabb says the trend is toward developing on-farm food safety programs in all sectors of agriculture. "We're all being proactive. It's well documented that Canada's food safety supply is among the safest and wholesome in the world, but we're going to the next level in providing a standard of production that keeps ensuring we're meeting consumer requirements."

McNabb says a pilot project for the feedlot sector will soon begin. He anticipates the voluntary program will catch on first with the feedlot sector, then eventually will involve cow/calf.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Gary McMorris of Milo who passed away this past December at the age of 54. Gary was ACC zone one director and chairman of the government affairs committee. We appreciated Gary's work on behalf of the Alberta cattle industry. He will be missed.

Alberta Cattle Commission 216, 6715 - 8th St. N.E. Calgary, AB T2E 7H7
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